However, a less extreme melanic form has occurred very sparingly in north-west Kent; this is ab. *melaleuca* Culot which is darkish-grey with the usual markings, but with the addition of a whitish fascia basal to the postmedian line and adjacent to it. On 20 June 1976 a specimen of this form attended my garden m.v. light at Dartford, agreeing precisely with Culot's description and figure. Chalmers-Hunt (1965, *Butterflies and Moths of Kent,* Sup. in *Ent. Rec.* **77**: 259) mentions a specimen of *melaleuca* also taken at Dartford by Mr Honeybourne and later deposited in the National Collection, but which I have failed to find there. However, within a series of f. *grisea* in that collection is a *melaleuca* from nearby Orpington, dated 7 July 1956. Kettlewell (1973, *The Evolution of Melanism*) makes no comment of this form, but gives one example as recorded for Deptford, Kent; I suspect this is a misprint for Dartford, probably referring to the 1955 specimen. It is interesting that the only *melaleuca* recorded are from this very limited area of north-west Kent, and that it appears to be so rare; secondly that the London area has not produced the more extreme melanic forms.

Although f. *grisea* (*brasyporina* Treits.) is not included in Kettlewell's list of melanics, it certainly is an adaptation to the atmospheric pollution and darkened environment of much of Britain during the Industrial Revolution. Chalmers-Hunt (*op. cit.*) details the development of f. *grisea,* already noticed in the woodlands of north-west Kent by 1829, to its total replacement of the typical form.

A further melanic trend is portrayed in the uncommon ab. *semivirga* Tutt in which the forewing beyond the postmedian line is considerably darkened giving a banded appearance; it is accurately figured in Newman (1874, *An Illustrated Natural History of British Moths*).– B.K. West, 36 Briar Road, Dartford, Kent DA5 2HN.

Is the Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum* (L.) (Lep.: Sphingidae) resident in Britain?

It is always very difficult to know whether or not a migrant from warmer parts of the world can survive the British winter. If one is discovered in January or February there is always the possibility that it has just migrated, rather than survived since the previous summer. I can offer no more than circumstantial evidence, but begin to be convinced that the Humming-bird Hawk-moth, can persist.

For the past 14 years, I have visited a garden at Churchill in Somerset, usually for brief periods, and each year I have recorded *M. stellatarum.* There is much Red Valerian *Centranthus rubra* in the garden at which the adult moths feed and are easily observed. The garden is in a sheltered valley in the Mendips where bedstraw *Galium* sp. is plentiful. In most years moths have been observed from June onwards. Surely fourteen consecutive years in the same locality is too much of a coincidence for migration to be the source every year.– David Agassiz, St Andrew's School, Turi, Private Bag, Molo, KENYA.